

Appl. No. 10/682,080
Response Dated April 15, 2005
Reply to Office action dated February 18, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants have received and carefully reviewed the Office Action of the Examiner mailed February 18, 2005. Claims 4, 5 and 19 have been canceled without prejudice, and claims 1, 6, 7, and 20-21 have been amended. Support for the claim amendments is found in the specification, claims, and drawings as originally filed. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-3, 6-18 and 20-22 are pending. Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 5-15, and 19-20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-4, 16-18, 21, and 22 are rejected as being anticipated by Takahashi et al. (US 5,261,455). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Examiner indicated that claim 5 was objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Independent claims 1 and 21 have been amended to include many of the limitations of dependent claims 4/5, with some limitations removed which are not believed to be necessary for patentability. Dependent claims 4-5 have been canceled without prejudice. Amended claims 1 and 21 are now believed to be in condition for allowance. For similar and other reasons, dependent claims 2-3, 6-18, 20 and 22 are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

In addition, claims 1 and 21 have been amended to recite a control solenoid apparatus including a pressure sensor for sensing pressure in an end cavity defined by a first end of the spool valve and an end of the first longitudinal cavity. Takahashi et al. do not appear to teach or suggest such a sensor. It appears the only sensor taught or suggested by Takahashi et al. is the lateral acceleration sensor 44, which "serves to monitor lateral acceleration acting on the vehicle

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body to provide a signal Y_G indicative of the magnitude of the lateral acceleration or rolling motion of the vehicle body to the controller 10." See column 8, lines 39-43 and FIG. 1.

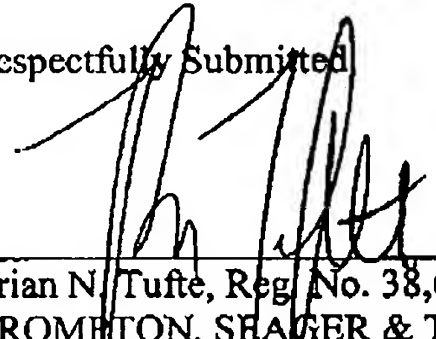
Furthermore, Takahashi et al. do not appear to teach or suggest a reason one of ordinary skill in the art would wish to modify the system to include a sensor for sensing pressure in an end cavity. Takahashi et al. thus fail to teach each and every element of the independent claims, and similarly the claims dependent thereon. As such, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested. It is submitted that, in light of the above remarks, all pending claims 1-3, 6-18, and 20-22 are now in condition for allowance. If a telephone interview would be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at 612-359-9348.

Respectfully Submitted

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